

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 DPW-01 RSR-01 /144 W

----- 016346

R 250300 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9164

INFO USDEL FRANCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4911

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I MAR 24 1973

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONGEN DANANG DATED MAR 24  
SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/ INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 270

### 1. MILITARY ACTIVITY:

MILITARY ACTIVITY IN I CORPS REMAINED AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL  
WITH 26 INCIDENTS REPORTED INCLUDING 19 ATTACKS BY FIRE( ABF)  
AND 5 GROUND ATTACKS. ARVN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INCREASED  
ACTIVITY IN THE VICINITY OF THE KHE SANH AIRFIELD. THE RUNWAY  
HAS BEEN REPAIRED; SUPPLY ACTIVITY CONTINUES AND AAA IS EMPLACED.  
THE AIRBORNE AO SAW VERY LIGHT ACTIVITY: 2 MININGS AND ONE ABF.  
1 ST DIV CONTINUES TO RECEIVE PRESSURE ESPECIALLY IN THE  
FIREBASE VEGHEL AREA. FIREBASE WEST IN QUANG NAM RECEIVED  
9 ABFS AND ONE GROUND ATTACK FROM ELEMENTS OF NVA 711 DIV.  
IN QUANG NGAI THE NVA 2 ND DIV HAS REPORTEDLY ORDERED ITS  
SUBORDINATE ELEMENTS TO EMPLOYE SMALL UNITS TO HARASS FRIENDLY  
FORCES WHILE LARGER UNITS MOVE WEST TO REFIT AND PREPARE FOR  
SA JUYNH AND PROVINCE WIDE OFFENSCE. CORPS WIDE FRIENDLY  
CASUALTIES WERE 14 KIA, 4 MIA; ENEMY 30 KIA, 3 CAPTURED.  
FIRENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 2,456 ROUNDS, 1,546 BY 1 ST DIV  
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NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS 910 SOUTH. THERE WERE NO NAVAL SUPPORT MISSIONS OR TACTICAL AIR SORTIES REPORTED.

2. COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES:

ACCORDING TO POLOFF IN QUANG NAM QUANG NAM SECTOR HEAD-QUARTERS REPORTS INDICATE THAT COMMUNISTS WITHIN PROVINCE ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN POLITICAL TRAINING AND PROPAGANDA. POLITICAL TRAINING CLASSES ARE BEING HELD FOR CADRE AT ALL LEVELS TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE ELECTIONS. PLANS ARE TO HAVE ONE POLITICAL CADRE IN EACH HAMLET AND THREE CADRE TEAMS IN EACH DISTRICT BY THE END OF MARCH. CAPTURED DOCUMENT FROM DUY XUYEN DISTRICT OUTLINES PLAN TO DISTRIBUTE "PEOPLE'S ID CARDS", TO PROTECT PEOPLE IN THEIR PRESENT LOCATIONS AND TO URGE THE POPULATION TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNIST VILLAGE AND HAMLET ELECTIONS.

3. VNAF VIOLATES "PRG AIRSPACE":

AN AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICER IN HUE REPORTED TO HUE POLOFF THAT A VNAF AIRCRAFT CROSSED THE THACH HAN RIVER ON MARCH 23 AND FLEW INTO "PRG AIRSPACE" EVIDENTLY DUE TO PILOT ERROR. THE AIRCRAFT WAS FIRED UPON FROM THE GROUND( BUT WAS NOT HIT) BEFORE IT QUICKLY RETURNED TO THE SOUTH THE INCIDENT WAS VIEWED FROM THE PRISONER RELEASE POINT AND AN AP REPORTED QUOTED A CANADIAN ICCS OBSERVER AS SAYING: "THIS WILL BE REPORTED. THAT PILOT SHOULD BE FIRED COURT MARTIALLED."

4. ICCS: POSSIBLE SOVIET ON POLISH TEAM

MAJOR BURNS, CANADIAN ICCS HOA AN HAS TOLD THE QUANG NAM POLOFF THAT A MEMBER OF THE HUNGARIAN CONTINGENT KNOWN AS 2ND LT JANOS KAPLAR IS BELIEVED TO BE IN ACTUALITY A RUSSIAN AND A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LENINGRAD.

5. ARVN POW COLONEL RELEASED:

HUE POLOFF REPORTS THAT ON MARCH 23 ARVN COLONEL VI VAN BINH WAS RELEASED BY THE PRG AT THE QUANG TRI PRISONER EXCHANGE SITE. BINH FORMER DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE ARVN 22ND DIV FORWARD CP AT DAK TO, HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN APRIL 1972. BINH TOLD I COPRS FORWARD CHIEF OF STAFF, COLONEL LE KHAC LY THAT HE HAD BEEN HELD PRISONER NEAR THE CHINESE BORDER IN NVN. BINH RELATED THAT AS HE WAS TRANSPORTED SOUTH FOR RELEASE HE OBSERVED THE ROADS IN NVN WERE CROWDED WITH CHINESE TRUCKS DRIVER BY CHINESE  
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PERSONNEL, CARRYING LARGE QUANTITIES OF MUNITIONS AND

SUPPLIES.

6. GVN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES:

QUANG NAM PROVINCE CHIEF, COLONEL VU THIEN PWUC, INDICATED TO POLOFF THAT HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN ABOUT TWO/ THIRDS OF THE PRVOVINCE' S 114 VILLAGES. COLONEL PHUC REPEATED HIS EARLIER CRITICISMS REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS A SYSTEM HE FELT THE DISTRICT CHIEFS HAD PROFITED FROM FINANACIALLY.

7. REFUGEES:

SINCE MARCH 10 GVN AUTHORITIES HAVE MOVED APPROXIMATELY 4,400 REFUGEES BACK TO THIER HOME VILLAGES IN CENTRAL QUE SON DISTRICT QUANG NAM POLOFF REPORTS THAT THIS MOVE IS NOT VOLUNTARY AND THAT MANY OF THE RETURNEES WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO WAIT UNTIL THE MILITARY SITUATION IN QUE SON HAD BECOME MORE FAVORABLE. IN QUANG TRI ON THE OTHER HAND THE HAI LANG DISTRICT CHIEF INFORMED CONGEN WAR VICTIMS OFFICER ON MARCH 22 THAT IN ADDITION TO 5,800 REFUGEES OFFICIALLY TRANSPORTED TO HAI LANG BY THE GVN AN ADDITIONAL 3,000 REFUGEES HAVE RETURNED ON THEIR OWN TO RESETTLE IN SECURE AREAS OF QUANG TRI.

BROWN

UNQOTE

BUNKER

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